

II. Listing of Claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel, ~~the steering wheel~~ comprising a frame to be connected to a steering shaft, the frame having radially outwardly extending spokes and a rim, the frame defining a well or recess to receive an air-bag unit; ~~unit~~ unit, the steering wheel being provided with a plurality of mounting elements, each of the mounting ~~element~~ elements being associated with a respective spoke, each of the mounting ~~element~~ elements being connected to the steering wheel and having a portion overlying part of the steering wheel, each of the mounting ~~element~~ elements being adjacent a periphery of the air-bag unit; the air-bag unit being connected to each mounting element by means of a respective resiliently biased connection to enable relative movement of the air-bag unit with respect to the steering wheel, the ~~peripheral part~~ periphery of the air-bag unit defining a substantially predetermined gap with the ~~said~~ portion of the mounting element.

2. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 1 wherein at least one ~~said~~ of the resiliently biased ~~connection~~ connections between the air-bag unit and one of the mounting ~~element~~ elements of the steering wheel includes electric contacts configured to be moved to touch each other on movement of the air-bag unit against the bias of the resiliently biased connection to complete a horn or hooter circuit.

3. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~ wherein at least one each of the resiliently biased ~~connection~~ connections comprises a compressible helical spring.

4. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 3 wherein the upper part of ~~each~~ the spring is connected to an element which is received within a snap-fit socket provided on a projecting peripheral lip of the air-bag unit.

5. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to ~~any one of the preceding Claims~~ Claim 1 wherein at least ~~some~~ one of the mounting elements are mounted to the steering wheel with a degree of freedom of movement, wherein the movement of ~~each said~~ the mounting element causing the portion of the mounting element overlying part of the steering wheel to slide relative to ~~the surface of the~~ steering wheel.

6. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 5 wherein there are three of the mounting elements, one of the mounting ~~element~~ elements being mounted to the steering wheel at a predetermined position without the degree of freedom of movement, and the remaining two of the mounting elements being mounted to the steering wheel with ~~a said~~ the degree of freedom of movement.

7. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to ~~Claims 5 or 6~~ Claim 5 wherein the steering wheel defines mounting ~~platforms~~, platforms and respective retaining recesses, each of the mounting ~~element~~ elements having a

horizontal bias to a respective mounting platform and having depending snap acting elements receivable within the ~~said~~ recess, at least some of the recesses having dimensions greater than that of the snap acting elements to provide ~~said~~ the degree of freedom of movement.

8. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 7 wherein each ~~said~~ recess is provided within a respective platform.

9. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to Claim 7 wherein each ~~said~~ recess is provided at a position adjacent a respective ~~said platform~~ of the platforms.

10. (Currently Amended) A steering wheel according to ~~any one of Claims 7 to 9~~ Claim 7 wherein each ~~of the platform~~ platforms is located beneath a peripheral lip provided on the air-bag unit, the ~~said~~ portion of the mounting element over-lying part of the steering wheel being in the form of a flange, ~~said~~ the gap being defined between the peripheral lip and the ~~said~~ flange.